

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 1996-318-C - ORDER NO. 2005-140  
MARCH 31, 2005

IN RE: Establishment of Fund to Address Revenue	)	ORDER GRANTING
Impact on Incumbent Local Exchange	)	MOTION FOR
Carriers Electing to Reduce Toll Switched	)	CONFIDENTIAL
Access Rates.	)	TREATMENT

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion of Verizon Communications (“Verizon” or the “Company”) for this Commission to treat certain materials filed in this docket as confidential. The Commission has determined that the Motion of Verizon should be granted.

The materials for which confidential treatment are sought is Verizon South, Inc.’s ILEC Fund Report filing. The materials involved were furnished to the Commission on March 1, 2005. Thereafter, on March 8, 2005, Verizon filed an amendment to the Company’s transmittal letter that accompanied its ILEC Fund Report filing, wherein Verizon seeks confidential treatment to the Company’s ILEC Fund Report. According to Verizon, the information contained in the ILEC Fund Report is proprietary and commercially sensitive.

In light of the current telecommunications environment, we find it is not appropriate to make detailed information regarding a party’s operations publicly available. We further find and conclude that making the information contained in these

documents publicly available could give actual and potential competitors an unfair competitive advantage. Accordingly, the ILEC Fund Report filed in the instant docket by Verizon is declared confidential and shall be afforded confidential treatment.

Additionally, by Order No. 2005-33 in this docket, this Commission appointed the Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) as the Administrator of the Interim LEC Fund subject to a further order to be issued after a full consideration of the appropriate guidelines for such an appointment. Because of the transfer of the administrative function of the Interim LEC Fund from the Commission to the ORS, we grant Verizon’s Motion for confidential treatment to ensure that materials that are provided to the Commission and/or the ORS to aid in the administration of the Interim LEC Fund and that are designated by the providing party as Confidential Information will continue to be entitled to protection from public disclosure. This is consistent with our intent, as expressed in Order No. 2005-33, that staff members of the ORS will treat such materials as confidential by continuing to be bound by confidentiality agreements signed in the course of their duties as former Commission Staff members. If an ORS Staff member who has not signed a confidentiality agreement wishes to review confidential information, that Staff member must sign such an agreement before being allowed to review the confidential material.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

(SEAL)